

IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF TAXES IS ONLY THING THAT WILL AVERT RECEIVERSHIP

Impossible for Town of Brevard to Borrow Money Until Past Due Interest Is Paid on Outstanding Bonds—Town Officials Publishing Letter Received from Magnus & Co., Which Is Picture of Conditions Now Existing—Past Due Taxes Would, If Paid Now, Avert Catastrophe for the Town.

The town of Brevard is facing a crisis.

Interest on bonds has not been paid, and bondholders are seriously considering the question of entering mandamus proceedings for the purpose of levying a tax against the property of the town sufficiently high to take care of its indebtedness, a proceeding which would mean placing the town in virtual receivership. Magnus and company, purchasers of the last issues of the town's paper, and a concern that is deeply interested in Brevard, has written a letter to the authorities, pointing out the dangerous situation in which Brevard has been placed, largely due to the fact that the town lost so heavily when the Brevard Banking company failed.

With most rigid economy on the one hand, and prompt payment of taxes on the other, Magnus and company says the town can work out of this dilemma. But immediate action is necessary, if this result is to be obtained.

The letter stresses the fact that Brevard cannot sell its notes or bonds so long as it is in default on payment of interest.

The town officials are publishing the letter from Magnus and company, to the end that all citizens may know exactly how the matter stands. The letter itself is a strong appeal to all tax payers to make immediate payment of taxes, so past due interest can be paid, which, in turn, will re-establish confidence in Brevard and enable the authorities to refinance the principal indebtedness. Unless this is done, then both interest and all bonds now due will be collected in some manner, and this would mean a much higher tax rate, levied and collected through court action, by agents of the court.

Property owners and tax payers of the town are the ones who must suffer, in event extreme measures are taken. It is pointed out that the only way to escape this drastic action on the part of the security holders is for the property owners and tax payers to pay their taxes at once, so past due interest can be paid, which will enable the town to convert its bonds now due into new bonds, thereby extending the time for payment of the principal.

The taxpayers of Brevard owe the town, in past due street assessments, more than seventy-five thousand dollars, not including interest. This item alone, if paid to the town, would pay up all of the town's past due interest charges, and solve the problem.

Past due property tax in an amount around seventy-five thousand

dollars, stand on the town tax collector's books, unpaid by the citizens, and this past due property tax would, it is pointed out, clarify the situation and bring Brevard out of the distress now being experienced.

Even the payment of one-half of either of the above past due accounts would enable the town officials to work out of its dilemma, these officials state.

The letter from Magnus and company is herewith published in full for the information of the citizens and tax payers.

Mr. H. H. Patton, Treasurer, Brevard, N. C.

Dear Mr. Patton:
The writer is very sorry that he did not get to see you and the Mayor yesterday. He returned to the hotel at about 4 o'clock and finding no message from you, telephoned you at Brevard, but was advised that you had left your office for the day and could not be reached by telephone.

The writer spent two days with Mr. Chas. M. Johnson, chairman of the Local Government Commission and would like to suggest that you lend every effort to collect your taxes. Brevard has always had a good credit and was one of the best thought of smaller municipalities in Western North Carolina. You officials have been largely responsible in building up this good credit and it should not be allowed to be lost without effort being put forth to save it.

According to our records, Brevard has a municipally-owned water plant. We believe that you should immedi-

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LOCAL CLUB MAKES GREAT IMPRESSION

Mrs. Lodema Robertson, president of the Brevard Business and Professional Women's club, returned Sunday from Greensboro where she represented the local club in the Twelfth annual convention of the North Carolina Federation of B. & P. clubs. Brevard obtained much favorable publicity because of the favors presented to all delegates by the Brevard club. The favor was a pressed galax leaf, with "Brevard, N. C.," lettered on the leaf, and was so unusual and so thoroughly representative of the community here that many favorable comments were heard and much newspaper publicity given to it.

The sessions, lasting two days, were held at the N. C. C. W., and much important business was transacted. The convention heard most interesting reports from all standing committees, and officers of the national organization delivered addresses in which the clubs of North Carolina were highly praised for the constructive work being done.

Miss Nettie Brogden, supervisor of schools in Guilford county, was elected president of the Federation. Winston-Salem was chosen as next meeting place. The 12th annual meeting closed with Mrs. Helen M. Schluraff, Erie, Pa., corresponding secretary of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs as the speaker.

Other officers chosen were Mrs. Ada Byford, Statesville, first vice president; Mrs. Dess Gurganus, Raleigh, second vice president; Miss Clara Langley, Greensboro, corresponding secretary; Miss Ruby McGowan, Fayetteville, for another term as recording secretary and Miss Annie Stevens, Goldsboro, as treasurer.

Mrs. James West, New Bern, was chosen chairman of district eight, Miss Frances Davenport, Wilmington, chairman of district four and Miss Sallie Tomlinson, Fayetteville, chairman of district five.

Chosen to represent the State federation at the annual gathering of the national federation, to be held in Richmond from July 6 to 11 inclusive, were Miss Elsie Riddick, Raleigh; Mrs. Pearl C. Green, Henderson; Miss Mabel White, Hickory; and Miss Mittie E. Hill, Greensboro.

CLEAN-UP WEEK DESIGNATED

The week beginning June twenty-second, has been designated as Clean-Up Week and the town has been divided into four zones to facilitate the work of cleaning up, using Main and Broad streets as the dividing lines. The town truck will be in Zone One, which lies north of Main street and west of Broad street, on Monday; in Zone Two, which lies north of Main and east of Broad street on Tuesday; in Zone Three, which lies south of Main street and east of Broad street on Wednesday; and in Zone Four, which lies south of Main street and west of Broad street on Thursday. Everybody is urged to begin cleaning up this week, so that they will be prepared for it when the truck comes in their zone next week.

CLYDE ASHWORTH, Chairman, Sanitary Com.

Master Painter of the Universe Puts Finishing Touches Upon the Picture to Welcome the Campers

The great artist of the universe has made ready in Transylvania county for the reception of the hundreds of boys and girls who come from the four corners of the country to spend July and August in the organized summer camps of the community. The mountain ivy, now in full bloom, fringes every cliff, covers every wooded hill and gives the appearance of a carefully planned hanging garden in which all the colors of the rainbow, the sky and the sea are blended together, forming a picture so magnificent in its pleasing appeal that once seen can never be forgotten. The rhododendron is heavy with buds almost at the bursting point, waiting in the waving mountain breeze for the moment when the gentle ivy lays aside its bouquet which served sweet summertime in making its debut. Then the rhododendron, oldest sister of the ivy, larger and with more glorious flower, will appear upon the scene to complete the picture that only nature's own God can produce.

The beauty and bigness of it all is greatly enhanced by the countless mountain streams of crystal clear water that come tumbling and tickling down the mountainsides, leaving the ground altogether when sheer cliffs are reached, and forming the great falls which makes this county known everywhere as "The Land of Waterfalls."

Brevard Selected As The District Headquarters By Highway Body

Selection of Brevard by the State Highway Department as headquarters for the maintenance district embracing Transylvania, Jackson, Henderson and Polk counties was cause of real rejoicing among the good roads enthusiasts of this community. Commissioner Neal, of Marion, made announcement of the selection one day last week, after a conference with Jerry Jerome, president of the Brevard Chamber of Commerce, Duncan MacDougald, chairman of the road committee of the commerce body, and other Brevard citizens. The Brevard delegation visited Asheville merchants and the Asheville Chamber of Commerce, laying before those people the advantages to be derived from completing the Boylston road, greatly reducing the distance between Brevard and Asheville.

J. C. Walker, one of the state's outstanding engineers, has been retained by the new commission as engineer in charge of 22 counties in Western North Carolina. Ernest H. Webb, in charge of the Caesar's Head highway work, has maintained headquarters here for some time, and the fact that this place is selected as headquarters for the four counties gives assurance that Mr. Webb's force will be kept in this section for some time.

Completion of the highway system about Brevard will make this town one of the greatest centers in the mountains, and will be on the direct route from Knoxville to Greenville, which is some forty-five miles shorter than that route at present. Chairman MacDougald's committee is doing most splendid work in connection with the road program.

BAPTISTS' POTATO CROP IS GROWING

Lawyers, doctors, merchants, workmen, housewives, school teachers and men and women from all walks of life turned farmer again Monday, and donned overalls and shouldered hoes and hied themselves to the potato field being grown by the Brevard Baptist church. The Baptists are growing several acres in potatoes, the crop to be sold and the proceeds to be applied on the church debt. All work is being done by the members, thereby removing all costs, as the land, the seed and the fertilizer were also donated to the church for this purpose.

It is expected that several hundred bushels of potatoes will be harvested by the Baptists, and a goodly sum realized for application on the church debts.

Minstrel Show Friday Night For Benefit of Brevard Municipal Band

Friday evening at 8 o'clock is the hour.

High School Auditorium is the place. The Sunshine Minstrels is the event.

The Municipal Band concerts during the summer months is the purpose.

Everybody in the town and county are the ones who profit by these free band concerts.

The boys who play in the band, with a few of their friends, are the ones who are staging this minstrel.

It is to be a good minstrel, and it is for a good purpose. The band boys, playing all summer free of charge, are taking the time and staging the minstrel in order to raise a sum of money necessary to bear the expenses of the band leader during the summer.

Following is a line-up of the frame up for the minstrel Friday evening, which all people are urged to attend, and by their attendance help in making possible the free band concerts during July and August:

Overture, by Brevard Municipal Band.

OFFICERS ELECTED IN MASONIC LODGE

Election of officers for the ensuing year was the order of the business session of the regular communication of Dunn's Rock Masonic Lodge last Friday evening. The following officers were elected:

Worshipful Master—James F. Barrett.

Senior Warden—Jerry Jerome.

Junior Warden—Henry Henderson.

Treasurer—A. N. Jenkins.

Secretary—Dr. J. F. Zachary.

These officers will be installed Friday evening, June 26, when it is hoped that a large attendance will be present to witness the installation ceremonies.

Rev. R. L. Alexander will preach the Saint John's Day sermon to the Masons of Transylvania county on Sunday, June 28.

TOWN BOARD ISSUES STATEMENT ON WATER RATES AND COSTS OF THIS DEPARTMENT

Interest Alone on Water Bonds Larger by \$2000 Each Year Than Income from Water Rentals, the Report Shows.

Mayor and Board Asks Advice and Counsel of Citizens and Tax Payers—Costs Must Be Met in Some Manner.

In the adjoining column there appears a clear-cut statement of the water question in Brevard, with every card laid upon the table, face-up. The board has stated simple facts as to the cost of maintaining the water system, and the receipts for same, showing the difference which must be charged up against property owners in the town, and assessment made for the deficit.

The old board, in the last days of its administration, adopted a new water rate, which was most unpopular because it was almost double the charges under the old rate. The new board was confronted with this new rate, adopted by the retiring board. The statement made by the new board, in effect, is this:

Brevard's water system costs, in actual operation and interest on water bonds, \$14,000 a year. That sum must be raised and paid, in some manner.

Under the old rate, the town collected each year \$5,500 in water rents leaving a shortage of \$9,000 each year, which amount must be assessed against the property of the taxpayers.

Under the new rate, the water rents amount to \$9,600, and even with this high rate there is lacking each year the sum of \$4,400 from water rents to pay the \$14,000 fixed costs.

Under the old rate, a tax levy of 27 cents on the hundred dollars valuation was laid for the purpose of paying the deficit in the water department.

Under the new water rate, a levy of 13 cents on the hundred dollars valuation will have to be made.

The question facing the board is that of whether the citizens desire to meet the expense of the water system by property tax, or have this higher water rate and let most of the expense attached to the water department be paid by those who use the water.

Interest alone on the water bonds amounts to almost one thousand dollars a month, and this fixed charge must be paid.

The mayor and the board invite all citizens desiring more information on the subject, and those having suggestions to make, to call at the city hall where such information will be given and all suggestions received as information to be used in adopting the plans which appear to be most satisfactory to the majority of the citizens who, after all, must pay these fixed charges, whether such payments are made by collecting water rentals or assessing property for the necessary amounts.

GREENVILLE MAIL SCHEDULE CHANGED

Because of the condition of the highway between Greenville and Brevard, now being hard-surfaced in both states, there will be but one Greenville mail each day coming in, and one out-going mail, until work on the highways has progressed to the point where travel is made easier.

The new schedule is as follows:

Mail arrives from Greenville at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Mail leaves Brevard for Greenville at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Sunday schedule: Mail arrives from Greenville at 10 a. m., and leaves for Greenville at 10:15 a. m.

The mail that has been arriving here at 6 o'clock in the evening is taken off for a while, on account of the condition of the roads. Full service will be resumed as soon as the condition of the roads will permit. Crews on both ends of the road project are working overtime in an effort to complete the road work at the earliest possible moment.

FINAL NOTICE TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS OUTSIDE OF TRANSYLVANIA CO.

We are forced to remove from our mailing list all names of subscribers living outside of Transylvania county who have failed to send in their money on subscriptions. We mailed statements to these subscribers a month ago, and those whose response is not received will be taken from the list. We have gone just as far as we can in carrying our good friends.

Similar action will be taken shortly regarding the subscribers in this county. It is now a question of buying paper and ink, and we believe that our subscribers will admit that we have done our part in carrying past due subscriptions. We are making this announcement in order to keep from writing another batch of letters and buying postage for same. If it is not convenient to pay the two dollars, then send in one dollar, or fifty cents. We hope that every one of you will realize that this action is caused by absolute necessity, and hope that we shall not be forced to remove a single name from the list.

TO THE CITIZENS OF BREVARD, Shortly after the present Board of Aldermen took office a delegation of citizens appeared before them to protest against the new water rates that had been put into effect. At that time the new members of the board were not sufficiently informed about the matter to deal with it. Since that time, however, the clerk has prepared a full statement showing the expenses and receipts of the Water Department of the town under the old and new rates. The board feels that the facts contained in this statement should be presented to the public to show the basis for the change in rates made by the former board. The following is a summary of the statement:

Expenses Charged to Water Dept. Annual interest charge on Water Bonds \$11,000.00 Annual maintenance cost of water and sewer system 3,000.00

Total annual expense \$14,000.00

This does not include any sinking fund which should be set aside each year for the retirement of the bonds at maturity. Neither does it include any cost of collecting water rents. The \$3,000.00 maintenance cost covers only items of expense for labor, repairs, replacements, patrolling of the water sheds, cost of operating Chlorinating plant at reservoir, cost of having water analyzed each month and general upkeep of water and sewer system.

Receipts From Water Department Total annual water rents under the Old Rate (of this amount \$735.00 was delinquent as of April 1, 1931) \$5,500.00

Total annual water rents under New Rate 9,600.00

Under the old rate there was an annual deficit of \$9,000.00. To make up that deficit required a general tax levy of 27 cents. Under the new rate there will be an annual deficit of \$4,400.00 which will require a general tax levy of 13 cents to make up. Conditions are now such that property owners are not paying their taxes and we must continue to have water. There is no way at all out of paying interest on water bonds and all other necessary expenses of operating the water system have been cut to the minimum and will be kept so.

It is always assumed that the water works system of any incorporated town is self-supporting. The treasurer in furnishing debt statements is allowed to deduct water bonds from the gross debt in computing the net debt. When this is done in our own case it makes such statements false and misleading to prospective bond buyers.

It would seem that the new water rates make a more equal distribution of the burden of paying the costs of the water system. It places on the consumer more of the costs of furnishing the water and maintaining the system. It still leaves on the general taxpayer the payment of the bonds issued to pay for the system and \$4,400.00 of the interest charge on these bonds annually.

If more detailed information is desired the city clerk will be glad to furnish it to any one desiring it. The board themselves will be glad to hear and consider any suggestions from the taxpayers after they have acquainted themselves with the facts in the case. The board's only desire in the matter is to do that which is for the best interests of the town and its citizens.

Very truly yours,
BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

HUNDREDS ATTEND INSTITUTE AT CAMP

Red Cross First Aid and Life Saving Instructor at Camp Illahee for 10 Days

Wednesday of this week witnessed the opening of the First Aid and Life Saving Institute being held for ten days at Camp Illahee by the National Red Cross. This institute is being held simultaneously with institutes at Brimfield, Mass., Chautauqua, N. Y., Narrowsburg, N. Y., Annapolis, Md., and in many of the middle and western states. A large number of people are registered for the ten days session at Illahee, and the men in charge of the institute, together with Mr. and Mrs. Hinton McLeod, owners of the camp, are anxious for all people in the community to visit the institute and earn of the great work being carried on.

Instruction is given in first aid, life saving, swimming, diving, canoeing, and boating. Men and women well versed in these subjects are on the program for lectures, in addition to the actual training given by the instructors. The institute has long been coming to Brevard for its sessions, and on many occasions the instructors and leaders have appeared by invitation before Brevard audiences and told of the work.